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To: <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: 11/6/2011 9:35 AM
Subject: SEPTIC TANK POLICY

--- On Sun, 11/6/11, Gary SAXE <saxesr@sbcglobal.net> wrote:

From: Gary SAXE <saxesr@sbcglobal.net>
Subject: SEPTIC TANK POLICY
To: news@sonomawest.com, letters@pressdemocrat.com
Date: Sunday, November 6, 2011, 9:19 AM

We attended the Wednesday night, November 2nd, OWTS (Septics) Policy Workshop and we have a few comments we would like to make regarding the revised Septic policy and the meeting.

Not as many people attending the meetings as the meeting a few years back, because not everyone was notified. An e-mail list was used to notify people. We were not on the list and only knew about the meeting because we saw an article in the local paper. Also, people whose property did not show up on the effected areas map might not have realized they were not effected right now, but could be effected tomorrow or in a few years. The areas they were dealing with are still changing as they were conducting the meeting. If you live 600 feet from any waterway you could be effected by this policy in the future.

A system for financially helping people who must repair or rebuild their septic systems is very "iffy" and had a lot of "coulds" in it. Costs could be less than \$2000 to greater than \$30,000.

The State Water Board doesn't seem to have considered that many homes in our West County were built many years ago as summer cabins and the lots may not be large enough or too steep, etc. to build a new septic system. The Board should consider alternative systems, and should make sure that the local water boards would allow them.

It wasn't clear if the tests for feces pollution could tell the difference between human waste and animal waste. And if the pollution came from just certain septic systems or a polluted aquifer and/or polluted adjacent land.

Most of the people who spoke at the meeting we attended thought the new policy was better than the previous policy, BUT they also thought the new policy needed to be written so it is clear, provides definite financial provisions, assures the use of alternatives to regular septic systems could be used, and protects the home owners privacy rights.

We believe everyone wants clean waterways, but that cleaning up those waterway should not come at the cost of someone losing their home, because they can't afford to build a new septic system or their property can't support an old style septic system.

Marni and Gary Saxe

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